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MINNESOTA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE IN COOPERATION WITH THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE  
TWIN CITIES INT'L AIRPORT, UNIV. OF MINN. EXTENSION SERVICE, AND STATE CLIMATOLOGY, DNR

DRY WEATHER ALLOWS EARLY START TO FIELDWORK

Farmers in most areas of the state took advantage of the dry spring weather to begin field activity during the past week, according to the Minnesota Agricultural Statistics Service. Small grain seeding progressed quickly in southern parts of the state, but the major wheat and barley production region of the Red River Valley has just begun with seeding. The far northern counties still have lake ice, melting snow drifts, and frost in the ground, and major field work is a week or more in the future. In southern Minnesota, access to fields is easy, with most normally wet spots relatively dry. Runoff in most of the southern 2/3 of Minnesota was minimal, as soils started the winter dry and have soaked up the little moisture available from sparse winter snow cover and light spring rains.

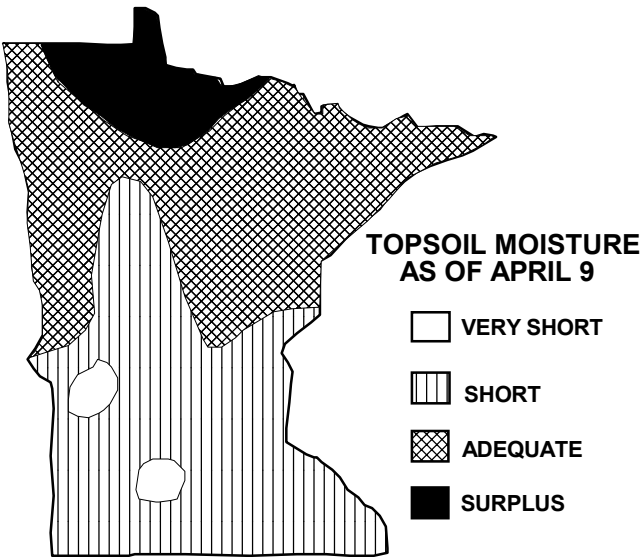
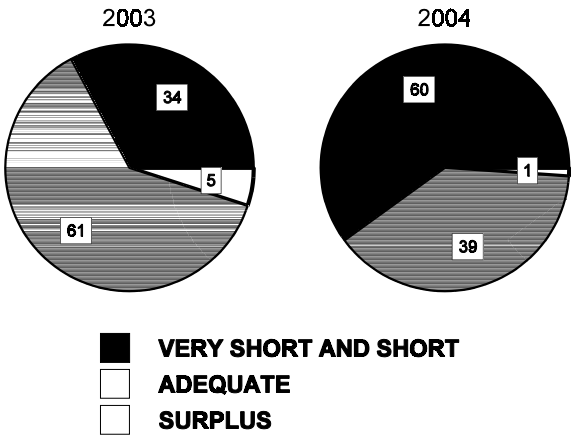
Statewide average temperature for the week was 41.4 degrees, which is 1.8 degrees above normal. Statewide topsoil moisture conditions as of April 9th were rated 15% very short, 40% short, 40% adequate, and 5% surplus. Subsoil moisture conditions were rated 17% very short, 43% short, 39% adequate, and 1% surplus.

An estimated 9% of both spring wheat and barley acreage is planted. This compares with the 5-year averages of 3% of spring wheat planted, and 2% of barley planted. Oats are 25% planted, compared with the 5-year average for this date of 8%. Sugarbeet planting is just underway at 1%.

Good progress was made on preparation of ground for row crops during the week. Scattered fields of corn were planted in the southern third of the state.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork: 4.6					
		Very Short	Short	Ade-quate	Sur-plus
Topsoil Moisture (%)		15	40	40	5
Subsoil Moisture (%)		17	43	39	1
Crop Progress as of April 11, 2004					
Crop	Stage of Development	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Yr Avg
----- Percent -----					
Corn	Land prepared	6	NA	0	4
Soybeans	Land prepared	1	NA	0	1
Spring Wheat	Planted	9	NA	3	3
Oats	Planted	25	NA	0	8
Barley	Planted	9	NA	0	2
Sugarbeets	Planted	1	NA	0	0
Approximate Date to Begin Full-Scale Fieldwork: 4/16/04					

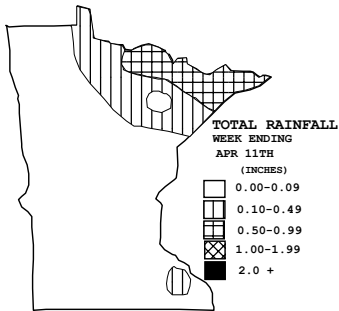
SUBSOIL MOISTURE - START OF 2003 AND 2004



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State Statistician

PRECIPITATION AND TEMPERATURES FOR THE WEEK ENDING APRIL 11, 2004:  
Temperatures averaged from 1.1 degrees below normal in the North-east District to 3.9 degrees above normal in the East Central District. Extremes: 79° in Canby; 16° in Itasca, Hibbing, Waseca, Montevideo. Precipitation averaged from 0.67 inch below normal in the South Central District to 0.03 inch below normal in the North Central District. Greatest weekly total was 0.80 inch.



Precipitation and Temperature Summary for 4/5/2004 through 4/11/2004

	Temperature				Precipitation			
	High	Low	Week Ave	Depart from Norm	Week Total	Depart Past Week	From Four Weeks	From Norm Since 4/1
<u>NW DIST 1</u>								
Crookston	63	21	37.2	-.3	.06	-.20	-.61	-.33
Moorhead	72	17	39.5	-.1	.02	-.26	-.37	-.42
Warroad	43m	34m	38.5m	5.2m	0m	-.24m	-.47m	-.36m
<u>NC DIST 2</u>								
Grand Rapids	65	23	38.4	.9	.13	-.27	-.35	-.48
Intl. Falls	61	20	34.2	-1.2	.80	.52	.01	.36
Itasca	65	16	37.3	3.3	.05	-.33	.66	-.54
<u>NE DIST 3</u>								
Duluth	60	22	35.6	.1	.09	-.38	-.45	-.63
Grand Marais	64	24	36.6	.7	.66	.39	1.15	.24
Hibbing	60	16	33.2	-2.6	.04	-.28	-.59	-.46
<u>WC DIST 4</u>								
Alexandria	72	21	41.2	2.4	0	-.42	-1.39	-.65
Browns Valley	78	18	41.2	.5	0	-.46	-1.03	-.72
Canby	79	19	46.2	4.3	0	-.51	-1.71	-.80
Fergus Falls	70	18	39.7	1.0	0	-.35	-.63	-.55
Montevideo	78	16	43.1	2.9	0	-.49	-1.18	-.75
Morris	76	17	42.7	2.4	0	-.44	-.88	-.69
<u>CENT DIST 5</u>								
Becker	74	19	44.1	4.0	0	-.54	-.74	-.84
Hutchinson	76	21	45.0	3.5	0	-.48	-.96	-.75
Olivia	76	17	43.8	2.8	0	-.52	-1.06	-.80
St. Cloud	75	19	42.2	2.2	0	-.47	-.88	-.73
Staples	68	18	40.4	2.0	0	-.44	-1.12	-.68
Willmar	75	24	43.8	3.4	0	-.47	-1.08	-.73
<u>EC DIST 6</u>								
Aitkin	64m	23m	43.7m	6.2m	0	-.44	-.23	-.68
MSP Airport	72	25	45.8	2.7	0	-.51	-.85	-.80
St. Paul - UofM	71	23	47.4	2.8	0	-.55	-.94	-.86
<u>SW DIST 7</u>								
Lamberton	76m	18m	45.0m	3.6m	0	-.61	-1.47	-.93
Pipestone	74	19	43.3	2.2	0	-.53	-1.03	-.81
Redwood Falls	77	19	44.0	.7	0	-.56	-1.43	-.86
Worthington	73	20	43.2	3.3	0	-.61	-.70	-.94
<u>SC DIST 8</u>								
Faribault	71	18	44.0	2.4	0	-.61	-.85	-.94
Mankato	74	22	44.3	2.1	0	-.71	-.87	-1.09
Waseca	72	16	44.1	2.8	0	-.72	-1.21	-1.12
Winnebago	76	20	46.0	4.3	0	-.64	-.77	-.98
<u>SE DIST 9</u>								
Preston	68	23	42.8	.9	0	-.71	-1.58	-1.07
Red Wing	69	22	43.8	1.5	0	-.59	-1.26	-.90
Rochester	61	20	34.2	-7.2	.80	.14	-.73	-.21
Rosemount	72	19	45.1	3.2	0	-.63	-1.04	-.98
Winona	68	26	45.8	1.3	0	-.72	-1.45	-1.09

m=some data missing

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